

Village of DePue, Illinois

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



384514



Water / SF
SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Heart of Illinois Group

Dear *SUSAN HEDMAN, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR*

The Illinois River watershed, and the families relying on it for safe drinking water, is threatened by the hazardous conditions at Lake DePue. The enclosed 30 minute film about the US EPA designated Superfund site in DePue, Illinois, discloses the dismal efforts taken to date to solve this problem.

The New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical site occupies approximately 1,000 acres within the Village of DePue, equaling about one-half of the Village's total size. The property includes the former plant site north of State Route 29 and Lake DePue on the south side of the Village. The lake is owned by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (75%), private business (15%), and the Village of DePue (10%), and comprises 525 acres in surface area, with about 11.3 miles of shoreline. From 1905 to 1989 the plant site property was used for a range of industrial manufacturing purposes, including primary zinc smelting, sulfuric acid manufacturing, paint pigment production, ammonium phosphate fertilizer manufacturing, refining and recovery of secondary metals from zinc ore (i.e., cadmium), secondary zinc smelting, and zinc dust production. These operations resulted in the contamination of the plant site and surrounding areas. Contaminants found include arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, vanadium, and zinc.

Areas of contamination are outside the original factory. They include off site soils (including residential), Lake DePue and its surrounding flood plain. The citizens of DePue want this site remediated and Lake DePue cleaned up. Lake DePue is host to the APBA Pro National Championship Boat Races. With the siltation and pollution in Lake DePue, the Village of DePue could lose one of its largest sources of revenue. Not to mention the devastating effects to eagles, pelicans, heron, ducks, geese and other waterfowl eating contaminated fish and plant life from polluted water. Also, Lake DePue is within the Illinois River flood plain and water from the lake filters into Illinois River affecting downstream communities and additional wildlife.

The DePue's residents are waiting for the restoration of Lake DePue; waiting since 1995, when the site was designated a Superfund site. Please watch the movie on the **14th Most Hazardous Superfund Site in the United States**. Then, join the residents of DePue and central Illinois in their efforts to see credible and substantive action to "Save Lake DePue."

Respectfully,

Eric Bryant, Mayor
Village of DePue, IL

David Pittman, Chair
Heart of Illinois Group, Sierra Club

Enclosure

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